

U.S. engagements will save lives—both U.S. and indigenous and use U.S. resources judiciously so that failed states don't deteriorate.

In December 2005, the Defense Department issued a directive, 3000.05, that places Stability Operations on par with Combat Operations. These are significant first steps and I commend the Administration, however, much more needs to be done. The first improvement I would recommend is that the State Department not Defense Department be the lead agency for planning and implementing the overall strategy for rebuilding a failed state.

I commend my colleagues on the Subcommittee who have done the best they can with an allocation this year that is \$2.4 billion lower than the President's request. Those budget constraints prohibited them from funding the Conflict Response Fund, which would allow State Department reconstruction officials to immediately draw down such resources as necessary to rapidly initiate programs like democratic and electoral reform economic and infrastructure development so that the indigenous population sees tangible improvements.

The second improvement I would recommend is stronger support from the State and Defense Departments for the Master's degree in Stabilization and Reconstruction, being offered by the Naval Postgraduate School in my district. This is the only school in the country where U.S. military and foreign officers are being educated with U.S. civilian agency personnel and the NGO community so they can better understand their respective roles in the classroom rather than the battlefield.

I am glad we are gaining a better understanding of the threat of failed states, so that we can confront the challenges of these threats to U.S. national security.

COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Markey amendment which would ensure that this bill contain the necessary provisions to ensure the neutrality of the Internet.

The Internet has revolutionized so many facets of our daily lives. Using the Internet, we can send and receive e-mail messages instantly, purchase merchandise, check our banking records, look at photos posted on a website created by a friend or family member, legally download a song or a movie, or check the latest headlines from a news source.

I agree with my colleagues that the underlying legislation does not provide sufficient safeguards to consumers to ensure that their access to websites and services on the Internet are not restricted. We must ensure that the Internet remain equally accessible to everyone. Net neutrality is supported by the Consumers Union, Amazon.com, Google,

Yahoo, and the Service Employees International Union to name just a few.

There should not be a fast lane and a slow lane for using the Internet. I urge a yes vote on the Markey amendment.

COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5252, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, & Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006.

The technology in wireless and traditional wire-line capabilities has far outpaced our current telecommunications laws, and the COPE Act serves to update these regulations. This bill provides for the streamlining of video franchising at the federal level, to speed up the process of granting new franchises into these markets, providing badly needed competition in the marketplace, and lowering prices for telecommunications in America.

This legislation updates the rules ensuring that satellite providers are treated equally to local cable franchises; and addresses new technologies that did not exist when the last telecommunications laws were written, such as ensuring that voice-over internet providers provide 911 emergency services to their customers. The COPE Act also contains build-out requirements for these new franchises, as well as protecting our rural infrastructure by ensuring that these providers contribute fairly to the Universal Service Fund.

In 2005, the Federal Communications Commission released four network neutrality principles: (1) consumers are entitled to access the lawful Internet content of their choice; (2) consumers are entitled to run applications and services of their choice; (3) consumers are entitled to connect their choices of safe legal devices; and (4) consumers are entitled to competition among networks, applications, services, and content providers. H.R. 5252 enacts these neutrality principles into law, sending a strong non-discrimination message to Internet providers. North Carolina's economy has prospered from open Internet access, and H.R. 5252 ensures that we continue to enjoy that opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, no legislation is perfect. I would like to have seen stronger language regarding build-out requirements than was included in the bill, and I supported amendments that gave local authorities even greater oversight than the original language provided.

However, this legislation represents a significant step forward in the information age. I urge support of H.R. 5252.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I was present and voting during the series of rolled votes that included rollcall No. 233, for passage of a bill introduced by my colleague Representative LATOURETTE. The bill, I believe reasonably addressed the impasse in labor contract negotiations between our Nation's air traffic controllers and the Federal Aviation Administration by creating procedural fairness and encouraging good faith bargaining for both parties. While I attempted to vote "yea" on the bill, the electronic voting system did not record the vote I intended to cast. I ask that the record reflect that had my vote been recorded, it would have been "yea" on rollcall No. 233.

RECOGNIZING QUAKERTOWN HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY, STA- TION 17 IN CELEBRATING THEIR 130TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the men and women of Quakertown Fire Company No. 1 which celebrates its one hundred and thirtieth anniversary this year.

Since its humble beginnings in 1876 as the Quakertown Hook and Ladder Company, station 17 has protected the residents of the Quakertown area with distinction and pride.

One hundred and thirty years ago, Quakertown Pennsylvania, which is located in the northern portion of my district, was a small and quiet farming community. And in its early years, I doubt the fire company needed to answer many calls. However, the Quakertown of today is a vibrant suburban area and station 17 has seen an increase of nearly 400 calls a year in the past 40 years. The need to expand and recruit on such a large scale would likely hinder the performance of the department, but the fire company has continued to grow and enlist generation after generation of fire fighters.

Firefighters have always been an integral part of American history. The safety of the citizens of Bucks County has been the top priority of the Quakertown Fire Company, and they have at all times served selflessly to that end.

Mr. Speaker, volunteerism is an American institution. Station 17 has always operated with volunteer firefighters, and I wish to congratulate and thank the current 50 volunteer members, who do an exceptional job. It is a special group of people that would voluntarily dedicate so much of their own time and effort towards the common good, and Quakertown is fortunate to have such a large and committed team of volunteers working for them.

How many people, Mr. Speaker, would jump out of bed in the middle of night at the sound of their alarm with no questions asked and go to a complete stranger's house only to battle a blazing inferno for hours upon hours, and